India Limited carried out exploratory activities and drilled a total of 11 exploratory wells, 4 in the Onland and 7 in the Offshore in the Mahanadi basin. In addition, 4 wells were also drilled in North East Coast Offshore area. However, no commercial hydrocarbon discovery was made.

Capacity utilisation of Bongaigaon Refinery

*187. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present capacity utilisation of Bongaigaon Refinery;

(b) whether shortage of crude oil supply is the major reason for under utilisation;

(c) whether the shortage is likely to be more acute with commissioning of Numaligarh Refinery; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to ensure full capacity utilisation of Bongaigaon Refinery and petrochemicals now and after commissioning of Numaligarh Refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The capacity utilisation of Bongaigaon Refinery is likely to be about 67% during 1996-97.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) OIL and ONGC are planning to step up production of crude oil in North East, further to augment availability of crude oil for Barauni Refinery, a new crude-oil pipeline project between Haldia and Barauni is being implemented. This will facilitate higher crude availability for the refineries in Assam.

Compensating the Cooperative Institution for loan waiver scheme

*188. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cooperative institutions are facing financial crunch due to loan waiver schemes of the previous Government; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to fully compensate the cooperative institutions for the amount they had to pay for the waiver of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PALNNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER KUMAR ALAGH): (a) According to various studies, the problems of cooperative credit institutions basically relate to imbalances, inadequate business, high transaction cost, low margin, low recovery, mounting overdues, lack of professionalism and lack of democratic management. The Loan Waiver Scheme also dampened the recovery climate. But, the implementation of Agriculture and Rural Debt Relief Scheme helped the cooperative institutions to realise irrecoverable dues.

(b) Full and final settlement of the claims of the Cooperative Banks under Agriculture and Rural Debt Relief 1990 Scheme have been made. The Cooperative Banks received an amount of Rs. 3961 crore under ARDR Scheme-1990. Six SCBs and seven SLDBs spanning twelve States certified that there was no element of penal interest in the claims lodged by them and accordingly full amount of eligible claims was reimbursed, In States where penal interest was reported to have been included in the claims lodged, standard deduction of five percent was effected which aggregated to Rs. 169 crore.

Besides, a number of steps have been taken to improve the commerical viability